

City Lights

A Business-to-Business Publication from Marietta Power

Summer 2005

Join the Marietta BLW's Celebration of Public Power Week and Clean Water Week Oct. 2 - 8

The Marietta Board of Lights and Water (BLW) invites you to join us in celebrating National Public Power Week and Clean Water Week, which takes place Oct. 2 - 8, 2005.

The BLW takes great pride in celebrating these events each year. After all, Marietta Power provides dependable power and quality customer service to area residents, while Marietta Water provides our community with safe drinking water and water source protection.

The highlights of this year's celebration will include:

- A poster contest with our partner in education, Park Street Elementary.
- Informational displays at Marietta facilities.
- Refreshments for customers at the BLW Customer Service Center.
- Customer Appreciation Hot Dog Lunch on Wednesday, October 5.

According to the American Public Power Association (APPA), a public power utility benefits local consumers in a variety of ways. These advantages include:

- Economical electricity rates.
- Efficient service and faster response from community-based work crews.
- Equal or greater reliability than private power companies.
- Greater responsiveness to customer concerns, because they do not have their allegiance divided between customers and stockholders.
- Primary focus is on long-term community goals and the ability to keep a larger percentage of revenues in the community.
- Additional revenues for a community's general fund.
- Local management and operations that cultivate community leaders for innovation and development.
- Local jobs and economic development, because not-for-profit electricity attracts and keeps businesses.
- Local control over all aspects of utility operations, including distribution system aesthetics and design, the disposition of revenue, and special programs such as

**PUBLIC
POWER**



**An American
Tradition
That Works**

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Editorial Focus

When Dennis Came to Town ... Marietta Power, Marietta Water Put in Long Hours During Early Season Hurricane

by Kim Holland and Karmen Atwood

When Hurricane Dennis hit Georgia early in the season, it had the effect of a 25-year storm on the Marietta community.

At one point, 5.8 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period. The heavy downpours, wind, and lightning associated with the storm had a tremendous impact on the utility services you receive from the Marietta Board of Lights and Water.

Electric Service Crews Worked Shifts Up to 16 Hours Long to Get Power Restored

Large amounts of rain and high winds caused havoc for Marietta Power's electrical system, leaving 2,500 power customers without power at the height of the storm.

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When Dennis Came to Town ...**Marietta Power, Marietta Water Put in Long Hours During Early Season Hurricane continued from page 1**

Fallen trees, broken power lines, and damaged poles caused the majority of damage to the City's electrical system. City officials called in contract tree crews to assist in removing the trees from power lines so that Marietta Power could restore power to our customers. Our electrical line crews worked shifts of up to 16-hours during and immediately after the storm.

The crews began repairing the main feeders first, which allowed power to be restored to the greatest amount of customers. There were at least two main feeders locked-out at the same time, which contributed to the large number of customers being without power. All lines had to first be, visually inspected and then any problem spots were isolated and repaired prior to energizing those lines. This procedure prioritizes safety for both customers and employees. Finally, electrical crews start riding out pull-off lines

to restore power to subdivisions and apartment complexes and service was returned in a timely manner.

Water and Sewer Service Crews Keep Close Watch on Sewer Lines that Cross Creeks

During a storm like Hurricane Dennis, Marietta Water has to also be prepared for an impact on the water and sanitary sewer system. Over a two-day period, Marietta Water employees worked over 300 hours on storm-related calls.

Historically, sanitary sewer creek crossings are installed relatively shallow and close to creek banks. Whenever a heavy rainfall occurs and creek banks erode due to flooding, the sewer mains crossing the creeks can be damaged. This damage can potentially cause sewer leaks or spills.

Marietta Water personnel routinely inspect creek crossings throughout the year

to ensure that the mains remain in good condition. In addition, during severe storms like this one, we work in severe weather, inspecting the sewer crossings both during and after the storms. This monitoring process helps us to avoid any large-scale problems to the sewer system that collects the wastewater for our community, and protects both the public health of the citizens of Marietta and our environment.

Everyone at Marietta Water and Marietta Power takes great pride in the high level of service we provide to all of our customers. Our customers can rest assured that when extreme weather strikes, they can always count on Marietta Power and Marietta Water to do all we can to get everything back to normal as soon as possible. ⚡

Brighten the Outlook for Your Business With Area Lighting Solutions From Marietta Power

Installing area lighting solutions can benefit your business in a variety of ways.

Eliminating dark areas around your business can help prevent a wide range of potential liabilities. In addition to making your property more attractive, effective area lighting improves visibility and helps people avoid accidents.

Good area lighting also discourages vandalism and other illegal activities.

Incidents of crime occur in poorly lit areas much more often than in well lit areas.

To help you keep your business safer and more secure, Marietta Power can provide you with an area lighting program tailored to

your individual needs. Marietta Power will own, install, and maintain your area lights for one low monthly fee.

This low monthly fee includes design, installation, and maintenance as well. So if a light gets damaged or someone knocks over a pole, you won't get charged more.

So take advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy greater peace of mind with an area lighting solution from Marietta Power. Brighten your company's security outlook today by calling Marietta Power at (770) 794-5183. ⚡



City Lights

is published by Marietta Power. Editor Peter Jonsson and the staff of *City Lights* welcome your questions, suggestions and comments. Address letters to:

City Lights

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Employee Profile



Joe "Hoss" Majors

Marietta BLW's "Hoss" to Compete in World Powerlifting Championship Competition

Joe (Hoss) Majors, who has worked with the Marietta Board of Lights and Water for more than 25 years, recently won the right to compete in the largest-ever World Powerlifting Championship competition.

Hoss will compete with the American Team on October 10-15 at the Global Powerlifting Committee World Powerlifting and Bench Press Championships in Dessau, Germany. Event organizers expect more than 500 lifters to compete in the event.

Hoss has participated in powerlifting competitions for more than 25 years, and will attempt to break two world records as he competes in the bench press and squat competitions at the upcoming event. Joe once held the "Drug-Free World Record Bench" for three consecutive years after he bench pressed 600 pounds in a previous competition.

In addition to training, Hoss's had to come up with \$2,100 to pay his travel expenses so he could accompany the American team. When they found out about the cost, his coworkers with the City of Marietta and the Board of Lights and Water (BLW) decided to raise the money he needed to cover the

expenses. Several vendors that work with Marietta Water also contributed to the cause. After all, everyone who knows Joe thinks of him as a very special person who seems to bring out the best in people. He may look a bit intimidating at first glance, but his gentle and joyful demeanor makes him a friend to everyone who comes into contact with him.

In all, Hoss's supporters raised \$2,550 – and Joe never found out about it until they surprised him with the money. In fact, the generosity of everyone who contributed literally brought tears to his eyes.

Please join all of us here at the Marietta BLW in wishing Hoss the best of luck as he "goes for the gold" this October. ✨



Joe (Hoss) Majors accepts a check from the City of Marietta and BLW.



Join the Marietta BLW's Celebration of Public Power Week and Clean Water Week Oct. 2 – 8 continued from page 1

energy conservation or rate relief for certain customer classes.

- Primary mission of providing least-cost, reliable service over maximizing profit.
- A competitive standard against which the service of all utilities may be measured.

Marietta Power and more than 2,000 other community-owned electric utilities currently serve more than 43 million U.S. consumers. That total represents approximately 14 percent of the country's electricity buyers and includes some of the largest U.S. cities and some of the nation's smallest communities. For example, Los Angeles, Orlando, San Antonio, and Seattle all operate publicly owned electric utilities. Many other community-owned electrical utilities serve communities with fewer than 3,000 customers.

For these and other reasons, the APPA calls community-owned electrical utilities "an American tradition that works." The tradition began when the first municipal utility came into existence in 1882, and the City of Marietta became a proud part of it when it established the Marietta BLW in 1906. Next year, Marietta Power will celebrate its centennial, joining more than 350 public power utilities that have already celebrated their 100th anniversaries.

Local water utilities such as Marietta Water have played an equally prominent part in the histories of many communities. Marietta Water currently provides water and sanitary sewer service for more than 17,000 customers within our service boundary.

Marietta Water strives to provide quality

water and sewer service by distributing safe drinking water and protecting the environment during the wastewater collection process. The Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association (GW&PCA) honored the system for these efforts in 2001, when it named Marietta Water its Distribution System of the Year. Marietta won the award for systems that serve 10,000 to 50,000 customers. The GW&PCA based its award on the quality of Marietta Water's facilities management and operation, resources (personnel, equipment, technology), safety programs, and emergency response programs.

To learn more about the advantages you enjoy as a customer of community-owned electric and water utilities, please visit www.mariettapower.com. ✨

October 1 through 2

Harvest Square Arts & Crafts Festival

Marietta Square. Free. Annual festival features artists and craftspeople from the southeast, children's activities, food court and entertainment. Visit www.mariettaga.gov or call (770) 794-5601 for information.

Thursday, October 6

An Evening With History – the History Of The Railroad in North Georgia

Marietta Museum of History. 6 p.m. An examination of the birth and growth of the railroads in North Georgia. Call (770) 528-0430 for more information.

October 7 through 8

Cobb County Classic Rodeo

Jim R. Miller Park. Marietta. 8 p.m. \$12 adults; \$10 children; under 5 free. Complete rodeo with seven events each night. Call (770) 684-7277 for information.

Friday, October 14

Senior Catfish Round-Up

Laurel Park. Marietta. Bring fishing gear and folding chairs and go after the big one. Awards will be given. Refreshments provided. Visit www.mariettaga.gov or call (770) 794-5601 for information.

Saturday, October 22

Mother Goose

Jennie T. Anderson Theatre. Marietta. 2 p.m. \$6. Favorite nursery rhymes come alive with a day in the life of Mother Goose. Call (770) 218-2677 for more information.

Saturday, October 29

Halloween Happenings

Glover Park, Marietta Square. Visit www.mariettaga.gov or call (770) 794-5601 for information.

Saturday, October 29

"Tales From Tara" – Halloween Costume Party

Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum. \$15. Dress like your favorite Gone With the Wind character. Prizes for the funniest, most original and overall best costumes. Trivia contest, refreshments, games and more. Visit www.gwtwmarietta.com or call (770) 794-5576 for more information.

October 29 through 30

The Georgia Ballet Presents "We've Got Rhythm!"

Cobb Civic Center. Marietta. Tickets range from \$20 to \$27. A celebration of music by American composers. Visit www.georgiaballet.org or call (770) 528-0881 for more information.

City Lights

Marietta Power

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www.mariettapower.com

2005 City Lights Reader Survey – Three Minutes Could Win You ?

Marietta Power is evaluating its quarterly newsletter, *City Lights*. To

Thank you for your help. We know your time is valuable.

ensure that the newsletter is helpful to you, we would appreciate your feedback. Please answer the following questions and submit your responses by faxing them to (770) 749-5105. All answers will remain confidential.

How often would you like to receive *City Lights*?

☐ Monthly ☐ Bi-Monthly ☐ Quarterly

I consider *City Lights* to be:

1. An excellent source of information about Marietta Power.

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ No Opinion ☐ No Response

2. An effective part of Marietta Power's overall communications effort.

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ No Opinion

Which features in *City Lights* do you read most frequently?

3. Business Connections

☐ Always Read ☐ Rarely Read
☐ Usually Read ☐ Never Read
☐ Sometimes Read

4. Board Member Profiles

☐ Always Read ☐ Rarely Read
☐ Usually Read ☐ Never Read
☐ Sometimes Read

5. Editorials by Board Members

☐ Always Read ☐ Rarely Read
☐ Usually Read ☐ Never Read
☐ Sometimes Read

6. Features on Local Businesses

☐ Always Read ☐ Rarely Read
☐ Usually Read ☐ Never Read
☐ Sometimes Read

7. BLW Employee Profiles

☐ Always Read ☐ Rarely Read
☐ Usually Read ☐ Never Read
☐ Sometimes Read

8. Special Event Stories (for example, National Public Power Week, National Fire Prevention Week, Great Georgia Clean Up, Holiday Tour of Homes, etc.)

☐ Always Read ☐ Rarely Read
☐ Usually Read ☐ Never Read
☐ Sometimes Read

9. Calendar of Events

☐ Always Read ☐ Rarely Read
☐ Usually Read ☐ Never Read
☐ Sometimes Read

What Changes should *City Lights* make to the articles?

9. Business Connections

☐ Include a lot more information
☐ Include some additional information
☐ Keep about the same
☐ Reduce story length
☐ Eliminate altogether

10. Board Member Profiles

☐ Include a lot more information

☐ Include some additional information

☐ Keep about the same

☐ Reduce story length

☐ Eliminate altogether

11. Editorials by Board Members

☐ Include a lot more information

☐ Include some additional information

☐ Keep about the same

☐ Reduce story length

☐ Eliminate altogether

12. Features on Local Businesses

☐ Include a lot more information

☐ Include some additional information

☐ Keep about the same

☐ Reduce story length

☐ Eliminate altogether

13. BLW Employee Profiles

☐ Include a lot more information

☐ Include some additional information

☐ Keep about the same

☐ Reduce story length

☐ Eliminate altogether

14. Special Event Stories

☐ Include a lot more information

☐ Include some additional information

☐ Keep about the same

☐ Reduce story length

☐ Eliminate altogether

15. Calendar of Events

☐ Include a lot more information

☐ Include some additional information

☐ Keep about the same

☐ Reduce story length

☐ Eliminate altogether

What additional stories would you like to see in *City Lights*?

16. Energy Saving Tips

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

17. Water Saving Tips

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

18. Features on the History of Marietta Utilities

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

19. Features on the History of the City of Marietta and/or Cobb County

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

20. Profiles of People who shaped the History of Marietta and/or Cobb County

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

21. Profiles of Community Leaders Other Than BLW Staff or Board Members

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

22. Features on Area Civic Groups, Charities, and Community Service Organizations

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

23. Profiles of Marietta Police Officers, Firefighters, Paramedics or Other Public Safety Workers

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

24. Other

(Please write your suggestions for additional stories here.)

☐ Include in every issue

☐ Include in every other issue

☐ Include two or three times a year

☐ Include occasionally

☐ Don't ever include

Thank you for your time. To submit response please fax them to (770) 794-5105 by October 15.